Potential Constructs and Items for a Child Well-Being Module: Leavers Studies

IA. Core Set of Recommended Items: Focal Child

Construct	Age for which Item is Appropriate		Item	Source		Psychometric Properties and Benchmarking	Comments
	0 – 5	**6 – 17**		**Nationally Representative**	**Previous Welfare Study**		
Focal Child: Health Outcomes							

Child Health Status	ö	ö	Now, I'd like to talk about (CHILD's) health status. In general, would you say (CHILD's) health is . . .
			  1 Excellent,
			  2 Very good,
			  3 Good,
			  4 Fair, or
			  5 Poor?
				NSAF (NHIS & SIPP have very similar items)	Five State, JOBS 2-year, JOBS 5-year	If states are interested, Child Trends could run means and standard deviations for NSAF item (overall and for key income subgroups).	*Florida and Massachusetts leavers studies already have very similar items.*

Physical, Learning, or Mental Health Condition	ö	ö	Does (CHILD) have a physical, learning, or mental health condition that [limits (his/her) participation in the usual kinds of activities done by most children (his/her) age/limits (his/her) ability to do regular school work]?[1]
			  1 YES
			  2 NO
				NSAF (NHES has a very similar item)		If states are interested, Child Trends could run means and standard deviations for NSAF item (overall and for key income subgroups).	*Massachusetts, Cuyahoga, and Los Angeles already have very similar items.*

Focal Child: Socioemotional/Behavioral Outcomes							
Behavioral Problems Index—Short Version		ö	I am going to read a list of items that sometimes describe children. For each item, please tell me if it has been often true, sometimes true, or never true for the child during the past month. a) He/she doesn't get along with other kids. b) He/she can't concentrate or pay attention for long. c) He/she has been unhappy, sad, or depressed. I am going to read a list of items that sometimes describe children. For each item, please tell me if it	NSAF	Longer version in JOBS 2-year	See Ehrle, J., & Moore, K. No. 6: Benchmarking Child and Family Well-Being Measures in the NSAF. March 1999. On the Urban Institute's website at: http://newfederalism.	*Cuyahoga and Los Angeles include some items from this scale.*

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[1] The wording "limits (his/her) ability to do regular school work" should only be used to ask about children ages 6 – 17.

Construct	Age for which Item is Appropriate		Item	Source		Psychometric Properties and Benchmarking	Comments
	0 – 5	6 – 17		Nationally Representative	Previous Welfare Study		
			has been often true, sometimes true, or never true for the child during the past month. (Only 6- to 11-year-olds) a) He/she feels worthless or inferior. b) He/she has been nervous, high-strung, or tense. c) He/she acts too young for his/her age. I am going to read a list of items that sometimes describe children. For each item, please tell me if it has been often true, sometimes true, or never true for the child during the past month. (Only 12- to 17-year-olds) a) He/she has trouble sleeping. b) He/she lies or cheats. c) He/she does poorly at schoolwork.			urban.org/nsaf/ methodology.html	

Suspended/ Expelled		Ö	During the past 12 months, has (CHILD) been suspended or expelled from school? This includes both in-school and out-of-school suspensions.
			  1 YES
			  2 NO
				NSAF		If states are interested, Child Trends could run means and standard deviations for NSAF item (overall and for key income subgroups).	• If time frame is altered from past 12 months to time of leaving welfare, it is no longer possible to benchmark. *Cuyahoga and Los Angeles have a very similar item.*

Focal Child: Cognitive/School-Related Outcomes							
School Engagement		Ö	For each of the following statements, please tell me if you think it describes (CHILD) all of the time, most of the time, some of the time, or none of the time? a. Cares about doing well in school? b. Only works on schoolwork when forced to? c. Does just enough schoolwork to get by? d. Always does homework?	NSAF	Five State	See Ehrle, J., & Moore, K. No. 6: Benchmarking Child and Family Well-Being Measures in the NSAF. March 1999. On the Urban Institute's website at: http:// newfederalism. urban.org/nsaf/ methodology.html	

IB. Core Set of Recommended Items: Any Child[2]

Construct	Age for which Item is Appropriate		Item	Source		Psychometric Properties and Benchmarking	Comments
	0 - 5	6 - 17		Nationally Representative	Previous Welfare Study		
Any Child: Health Outcomes/ Fertility							
Having Children		ö	(Has your child/Have any of your children) had a baby? 1 YES—Which child was that? Who else? 2 NO 7 DON'T KNOW		JOBS 5-year		• Very likely to be low frequency.
Any Child: Socioemotional/Behavioral Outcomes							

Arrests		ö	Since (**SELECT DATE**), (has your child/have any of your children) ever been arrested by the police or taken into custody for an illegal or delinquent offense? Please do not include arrests for minor traffic violations.
			          1 YES
			          2 NO
					Five State, modified with respect to specification of time frame		• Follow up – questions:
							 How old is this child?
							 Is this child male or female?
							 Confirm whether child is focal child.
							 • In Five State studies, date is random assignment (time frame of two to four years). Changing time frame poses difficulties for comparing with other samples.

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[2] Any child is defined in the Five State Project as any child in the household for whom respondent is responsible.

IIA. Additional Items: Focal Child

Construct	Age for which Item is Appropriate		Item	Source		Psychometric Properties and Benchmarking	Comments
	0 - 5	6 - 17		Nationally Representative	Previous Welfare Study		
Focal Child: Health Outcomes							
Health Status Compared to 12 Months Ago	ö	ö	How is your (CHILD's) health in general compared to 12 months ago? Is it: 1 Much better, 2 Somewhat better, 3 About the same, 4 Somewhat worse, or 5 Much worse?	NSAF		If states are interested, Child Trends could run means and standard deviations for NSAF item (overall and for key income subgroups).	• If time frame is adjusted from 12 months ago to time of leaving welfare, it is no longer possible to benchmark.
Focal Child: Socioemotional/Behavioral Outcomes							
Skipped School		ö	During this past 12 months, how many times has (CHILD) skipped school, cut classes without your permission, or refused to go to school? Was it . . . 0 Never 1 Once 2 2 or more times	NSAF		If states are interested, Child Trends could run means and standard deviations for NSAF item (overall and for key income subgroups).	• May underestimate as parents may not always have accurate information about this. • If time frame is changed from 12 months ago to time of leaving welfare, it is no longer possible to benchmark.
Positive Behavior Scale—Short Version		ö	Different children have different personalities and different good qualities. **I am going to read a list of items that sometimes describe children. For each item, please tell me if it has been often true, sometimes true, or never true for the child during the past month.** 1. My child is warm and loving. 2. My child gets along well with other children. 3. My child is admired and well-liked by other children. 4. My child shows concern for other people's feelings. 5. My child is helpful and cooperative. 6. My child is considerate and thoughtful of other children.		New Chance, JOBS 2-year, Five State—Modified to administer over the phone.		• NOT previously administered by phone. Has been adjusted for phone administration. This limits comparison with other samples. • May want to include to balance questions asking about problem behavior.

Construct	Age for which Item is Appropriate		Item	Source		Psychometric Properties and Benchmarking	Comments
	0 - 5	6 - 17		Nationally Representative	Previous Welfare Study		
			7. My child tends to give, lend, and share.				
Focal Child: Cognitive/School-Related Outcomes							
School Performance		ü	Would you describe (CHILD)'s work at school as . . . 1 Excellent, 2 Above average, 3 Average, 4 Below average, or 5 Failing?	NHES			• Five State Project includes a similar item. *Cuyahoga and Los Angeles have a similar item.*

IIB. Additional Items: Any Child[3]

Construct	Age for which Item is Appropriate		Item	Source		Psychometric Properties and Benchmarking	Comments
	0 - 5	6 - 17		Nationally Representative	Previous Welfare Study		
Any Child: Health Outcomes							

Physical, Learning, or Mental Health Condition	ö	ö	**Do any of your children** have a physical, learning, or mental health condition that [limits (his/her) participation in the usual kinds of activities done by most children (his/her) age/limits (his/her) ability to do regular school work]?
			  1 YES
			  2 NO
				NSAF, modified (NHES has a very similar item)			• Follow up – questions:
							How old is this child?
							Is this child male or female?
							Confirm whether child is focal child.
							• Altering wording to pertain to any children makes benchmarking less precise. When asking about any children, although the wording will be slightly different, it is still helpful to use a question that is used in other surveys.
							Massachusetts, Cuyahoga, and Los Angeles have similar items.

Accident or Injury	ö	ö	Since (**SELECT DATE**), have any of your children ever had an accident, injury, or poisoning requiring a visit to a hospital emergency room or clinic?
			  1 YES
			  2 NO
			  8 DON'T KNOW
			
			Did this happen while CHILD was in child care arrangement?
					JOBS 2-year, modified (New Chance & Five State have very similar items)		• Follow up – questions:
							How old is this child?
							Is this child male or female?
							Confirm whether child is focal child.
							• Date used in other studies was date of

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[3] Any child is defined in the Five State Project as any child in the household for whom respondent is responsible.

Construct	Age for which Item is Appropriate		Item	Source		Psychometric Properties and Benchmarking	Comments
	0 - 5	6 - 17		Nationally Representative	Previous Welfare Study		
			1 YES 2 NO		Child care item is from Five State		random assignment (time frame varies with each study). Altering date poses difficulties for comparing with these samples.

Any Child: Socioemotional/Behavioral Outcomes

Construct	0 - 5	6 - 17	Item	Nationally Representative	Previous Welfare Study	Psychometric	Comments
Skipped School		Ö	During this past 12 months, how many times **have any of your children** skipped school, cut classes without your permission, or refused to go to school? Was it . . . 0 Never 1 Once 2 2 or more times	NSAF, modified			• May underestimate as parents may not always have accurate information about this. • Follow up – questions: How old is this child? Is this child male or female? Confirm whether child is focal child. • Altering wording to pertain to any children makes benchmarking less precise. When asking about any children, although the wording will be slightly different, it is still helpful to use a question that is used in other surveys.
Suspended/ Expelled		Ö	During the past 12 months, **have any of your children** been suspended or expelled from school? This includes both in-school and out-of-school suspensions. 1 YES 2 NO	NSAF, modified			• Follow up – questions: How old is this child? Is this child male or female? Confirm whether child is

Construct	Age for which Item is Appropriate		Item	Source		Psychometric Properties and Benchmarking	Comments
	0 - 5	6 - 17		Nationally Representative	Previous Welfare Study		
							focal child. • Altering wording to pertain to any child or adjusting time frame makes benchmarking less precise. When asking about any children, although the wording will be slightly different, it is still helpful to use a question that is used in other surveys. *Cuyahoga and Los Angeles have a very similar item.*